



United States Department of Agriculture

FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Natural Resources Conservation Service

 [NRCS.USDA.GOV](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov)

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP):

- Receive financial and technical assistance to voluntarily implement conservation and woodland improvement practices.

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP):

- Earn additional payments for conservation performance on working woodlands by building on current management efforts to improve the health and sustainability of your woods.

STATE PROGRAMS

Ohio Department of Natural Resources

 [FORESTRY.OHIODNR.GOV](https://www.forestry.ohiodnr.gov)

State Service Forester Assistance:

- Receive technical assistance with forest management, watershed protection, insect and disease control, forest recreation, tree planting, and wildlife habitat development.
- Gain insight into managing timber sales (including sample contracts) as well as working with private foresters and Master Loggers.
- Learn about the Ohio Forest Tax Law and cost-share incentive programs; a state service forester can inspect privately-owned forest land to determine eligibility.

Ohio Forest Tax Law (OFTL):

- Receive up to a 50% reduction of property taxes on qualifying forested acreage.
- In exchange for the tax reduction, landowners agree to manage their forest land for the commercial production of timber and other forest products and to abide by pertinent rules and regulations.

OTHER PROGRAMS

County Auditor Offices

Current Agricultural Use Value Program (CAUV):

- Receive a property tax reduction on qualifying agricultural lands (including timberlands) based on the current use value rather than the “highest and best” potential use of acres.
- By permitting values to be set well below true market values, the CAUV normally results in a substantially lower tax bill for working woodlands.
- Requirements are determined by the county auditor’s office and may vary across the state.

American Tree Farm System (ATFS)

 [TREEFARMSYSTEM.ORG](https://www.treefarmssystem.org)

Certification Program:

- Voluntarily enroll woodlands into the ATFS certification program to validate and receive recognition for sustainable forest management practices and techniques.
- Connect with professional foresters and other engaged woodland owners through resources and events hosted by the Ohio Tree Farm Committee.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Society of American Foresters

 [OSAFDIRECTORY.COM](https://www.osafdirectory.com)

- Learn about resources for sustainable forestry management.
- Locate a consulting forester by region and services provided.

TSI/Service Provider Directory

 [OHIORESOURCECONNECTION.COM](https://www.ohioresourceconnection.com)

- Locate a vendor to complete woodland management activities such as invasive plant control, forest stand improvement, tree planting and more.



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Forest Management Resources in Ohio



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Ohio Forest Management Programs

Find a program to help you reach your forest management and conservation goals for today and in the future.



Ohio features approximately 8 million acres of forested land, and private woodland owners hold over 80% of those forests. Proper forestry management is essential in woodland health and sustainability and can provide environmental, social and economic benefits. A management plan can help a landowner achieve many objectives - from timber harvesting and agroforestry activities to wildlife habitat creation, watershed protection, recreational opportunities and more.

As a private landowner, you may be concerned about keeping your land productive and healthy now and in the future. Through federal, state and local programs, you can receive financial and technical assistance - including a certified forest management plan customized to your property; access to a network of resources including private foresters and master loggers; and contract payments for establishing, maintaining and expanding conservation on your property.

Reach out to federal, state and local resources to identify the goals and the management activities needed to maintain your woods today and in the future.

	Purpose	Woodland Benefits	Eligibility	Get Started	Program-Specific Requirements
EQIP	Broad array of practices	Woodland health, diversity, wildlife habitat & timber quality improvement	Control land for practice lifespan, no payment duplication	Contact local USDA service center, review woodland with ODNR state service forester	Meet conservation standards & contract requirements
CSP	Enhancements, practices & bundles	Long-term, whole-property conservation management	Control land for contract term, meet stewardship thresholds	Contact local USDA service center, review woodland with ODNR state service forester	Meet conservation standards & contract requirements
OFTL	Property tax reduction	Timber quality improvement, woodland use protection	10-acre woodland minimum, no grazing wooded acres, marked property boundaries	Contact ODNR state service forester	Required forest management plan with parcel data, woodland acreage
CAUV	Property tax reduction	Timber quality improvement	10-acre woodland minimum, county-specific requirements	Contact county auditor's office or consulting forester	County-specific requirements vary
ATFS	Sustainable forestry certification	Wood product marketing certification, networking	10-acre woodland minimum, meet sustainable forestry standards	Contact Ohio Tree Farm System	Required forest management plan to address all tree farm standards

